



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/073,116

02/12/2002

Bernard Belleau

IAF-1/2 C12

2715

24999

7590

02/28/2003

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, PC
2200 CLARENDON BLVD
SUITE 1400
ARLINGTON, VA 22201

EXAMINER

MCKENZIE, THOMAS C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1624

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/073,116

Applicant(s)

BELLEAU ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas McKenzie Ph.D.

Art Unit

1624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 36-74 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 36-74 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to an application filed on 2/12/02. There are thirty-nine claims pending. Claims 36 and 37 are compound claims. Claims 38-74 are synthesis claims. The application concerns some intermediate compounds and processes of making those intermediates of purine and pyrimidine ant-viral compounds.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
- I. Claim 36, and part of 37, drawn to 1,3-dioxolane intermediate compounds lacking a purine or pyrimidine substituent, classified in class 549, subclass 430.
 - II. Claim part of 37, drawn to 1,3-oxathiolane intermediate compounds lacking a purine or pyrimidine substituent, classified in class 549, subclass 30.
 - III. Claim part of 37, drawn to 2-hydroxyacetaldehyde acetal compounds, classified in class 568, subclass 594, among others.
 - IV. Claims 38-47, drawn to processes of making 1,3-dioxolane compounds containing a purine or pyrimidine substituent, classified in class 544, subclass 264, among other.
 - V. Claims 48-74 and part of 37, drawn to 1,3-oxathiolane compounds containing a purine or pyrimidine substituent and processes of making said compounds, classified in class 544, subclass 264, among other.

Claim 37 links Groups I-III & V

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons: the heterocyclic core of the compounds of claim 36 is a 1,3-dioxolane ring. This ring is a mandatory feature and is five-membered with two oxygen atoms. The heterocyclic core of the compounds of claims 48-74 is a 1,3-

oxathiolane ring. This ring is a mandatory feature and is five-membered with one oxygen and one sulfur atom. The 2-hydroxyacetaldehyde acetal compounds of groups III do not contain a ring. These multiple claimed cores are chemically non-equivalent and are not art-recognized as sharing the same chemical properties. Inventions I-IV have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, thus the patent search required for Group I is not co-extensive with that required for Groups II-IV. The basic names of these compounds differ, thus the literature search for these various species will be divergent. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Should Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that the different core rings are not patentably distinguishable, Applicants should identify such evidence now of record or submit any such evidence that shows the groups to be obvious variants. Such evidence may be used in a rejection under 35 USC 103(a) if the Examiner finds any of the Groups unpatentable over the prior art.

Inventions I-III and IV-V are related as mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship. Distinctness is proven for claims in this relationship if the intermediate product is useful to make other than the final

product (MPEP § 806.04(b), 3rd paragraph), and the species are patentably distinct (MPEP § 806.04(h)). In the instant case, the intermediate product is deemed to be useful as intermediates for making other anti-viral compounds where the introduced heteroaryl compound is not a purine or pyrimidine. In addition, the 2-hydroxyacetaldehyde acetal compounds of group III could be used to make 1,3-dithiolane or 1,3-oxasololane compounds. The inventions are deemed patentably distinct since there is nothing on this record to show them to be obvious variants. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions anticipated by the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.


Although Groups IV and V are classified together, they contain patentably distinct five-membered heterocyclic cores (sugars in Applicants' terminology). A reference against a 1,3-dioxolane would not be a reference against a 1,3-oxathiolane compound or *vice versa*. The basic names of these compounds differ, thus the literature search for these various species will be divergent.

4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement is traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

6. Please direct any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner to Thomas C McKenzie, Ph. D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-9806. The FAX number for before final amendments is (703) 872-9306. The Examiner is available from 8:30 to 5:30, Monday through Friday. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, you can reach the Examiner's supervisor, Mukund Shah at (703) 308-4716. Please direct general inquiries or any inquiry relating to the status of this application to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.


Thomas McKenzie, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1624

TCMcK
February 27, 2003